and decide on taking corrective steps to place the economy on a high growth trajectory;

(b) if so, the details of major decisions taken by the N.D.C. to step up growth in the remaining two years of the Tenth Plan; and

(c) the guidelines evolved for formulation of the Eleventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A two-day meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) was held on 27th and 28th June 2005 to consider the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(b) The NDC expressed broad agreement with the goals and policies suggested in the Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan. It was decided to set up a Committee under the Finance Minister to examine relevant issues on the debt burden and debt relief with particular reference to debt outstanding of States against the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF). It was agreed to form a NDC Sub-Committee for drawing up implementable action plans in agriculture and related issues. The NDC directed the Planning Commission to begin work on the Approach Paper to Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(c) No guidelines have been evolved for formulation of Eleventh Five Year Plan.

BPL Population in Uttar Pradesh

†451. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons brought above poverty line by providing Central Assistance in each district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of persons still living Below Poverty Line as on today, district-wise;

(c) the amount allocated for this purpose, district-wise; and

(d) whether districts having, tribal population are accorded priority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Planning Commission estimates poverty at National and State level from the large sample survey on

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

'Household Consumer Expenditure' conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest such survey was conducted in 1999-2000. As such, Planning Commission does not estimate poverty district-wise. The number of persons living below the poverty line, for the State of Uttar Pradesh in the years 1993-94 (50th Round) and 1999-2000 (55th Round) for rural and urban areas is given below in the table:

Number of persons living below poverty line in Uttar Pradesh

(No. of Poor in Million)

Year	Rural	Urban	Combined
1993-1994	49.6	10.8	60.4
1999-2000	41.2	11.8	53.0

As observed from the above table, the number of persons living below poverty line in Uttar Pradesh has come down from 60.4 million in 1993-94 to 53.0 million in 1999-2000.

As regards district-wise data, it would be relevant to note that the BPL Census 2002 initiated by the Ministry of Rural Development has not been finalized so far.

(c) The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty in the country. It comprises of (i) accelerated economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti-poverty programmes. It is not feasible to segregate and specify the district-wise impact of all such programmes on the reduction of poverty.

(d) Yes Sir. The SC/ST population is an important parameter in the allocation of funds for major schemes.

Central Assistance to Madhya Pradesh

†452. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government is adopting dual criteria while granting Central assistance to Madhya Pradesh in comparison to other States:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.